Phoenix Resurrection ™ & ©1995 Marvel and Malibu Comics, ARR.

Phoenix Lights a Fire In the Ultraverse

The last time around, Phoenix nearly destroyed one universe. Now, Phoenix is in a position to threaten *two* universes!...

"A new threat has entered the Ultraverse from Marvel Comics' X-Men Universe," Ultraverse editor Hank Kanalz said. "It's oddly familiar, yet completely different. It moves through the Ultraverse... observing... judging... building its strength for the day of its resurrection. And that day is in November!"

Phoenix's return begins in a multi-part serial, "The Phoenix Resurrection," that runs through all seven November Ultraverse releases. Each issue will feature three pages of the series that paves the way for a major Ultraverse/X-Men cross-over series. This storyline will answer the question: Who will be the next Phoenix?" Kanalz said.

The November serial, which appears in the second issues of ***The All-New Exiles***, ***Mantra***, ***Night Man, Prime***, ***Rune, Siren***, and ***UltraForce***, features artwork by Bryan Hitch, John Royle, Chuck Wojtkiewicz, Randy Green, Brian Murray, and Paul Pelletier. This leads into a major story arc that not only involves several Ultraverse titles in December, but also continues into a pair of 48-page ***X-Men/Ultraverse*** crossover specials.

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The Phoenix Resurrection—Genesis, written by Ian Edginton and illustrated by Bryan Hitch, Mark Pacella, Randy Green, and other, brings together the Ultraverse heroes and Marvel's mutants to try to prevent a new Phoenix from coming to power. ***The Phoenix Resurrection—Revelations***, written by Edginton and illustrated by John Royle, Jeff Matsuda, Randy Green, and others, chronicles the battle between the heroes and the new Phoenix... a battle that Malibu promises "will have profound effect on Ultraverse continuity." Both $3.95 comics are scheduled for December release.

And the Phoenix Resurrection storyline doesn't end there. In February, a third 48-page special, ***Phoenix Resurrection: Aftermath*** reveals what price must be paid by both the Ultraverse heroes and the X-Men after their dramatic confrontation with the new Phoenix. This series is more than just an ending, though—it's also the beginning of a new series, ***FoxFire,*** slated for February launch from Malibu. FoxFire's debut appearance is in this January-release $3.95 special, written by Ian Edginton and illustrated by John Royle. "This Phoenix event will have a permanent effect on the Ultraverse," Edginton said. "In fact, this issue will reveal exactly how permanent the changes will be!"

And if you think this is the final Marvel/Ultraverse crossover event, think again: The Phoenix Resurrection is another important step in a mysterious master plan that will bring the two universes together again in '96—provided there are two universes left when Phoenix gets finished!

by ALEX KIRKLAND

He's a Grifter, Shi's a Woman

Billy Tucci's Shi has already crossed over into the Image Universe once in the ***Shi•Cyblade*** storyline; this December, she once again wanders into WildStorm territory when she meets the WildCAT's resident gunslinger, Grifter, in a specially designed hardcover.

Grifter•Shi unites the two hard-hitting heroes in order that they might stop terrorists who have targeted a major Japanese city for destruction. If the duo can't locate them and stop their scheme, millions will die.

"I'm a big fan of Billy's work," Lee said. "When the opportunity to do this project together came up, I jumped at the chance. This will be a high-quality oversized book—a keepsake that I'd want to own, even if I wasn't involved in it."

The special hardcover is written by Lee and Tucci and illustrated by the all-star pencilling trio of Jim Lee, Billy Tucci, and Travis Charest; Troy Hubbs has been tapped for the inking honors. This 64-page $29.95 hardcover will be released with two different dustjackets, one illustrated by Jim Lee and one illustrated by Billy Tucci (variant cover collectors take note: this is the first time a comic book hardcover has been released with variant covers). Both versions will be released in equal quantities.

For fans who want only the best, there will also be four limited edition hardcover versions of ***Grifter•Shi:*** a 500 copy edition signed by Jim Lee, priced at $75; a 500 copy edition signed by Billy Tucci, priced at $75; a 1000 copy edition signed by Travis Charest, priced at $64.95; and a 500 copy edition signed by inker Troy Hubbs, priced at $50. Fans who are interested in any of the limited editions should talk to the friendly folks at their local comic shops as soon as possible, as allocations are likely to occur, driving the prices up.

With one hit Shi/Image crossover already on the stands and a second on the way, is it possible that Shi will meet other Image heroes and heroines in the near future? While no plans have been announced, insiders at Image confirm that other Shi crossovers are in the talking stages and look very likely for '96.

by ALEX KIRKLAND

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COMIC SHOP NEWS™
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From Your Friendly Neighborhood Comics Outlet
A-1 COMICS
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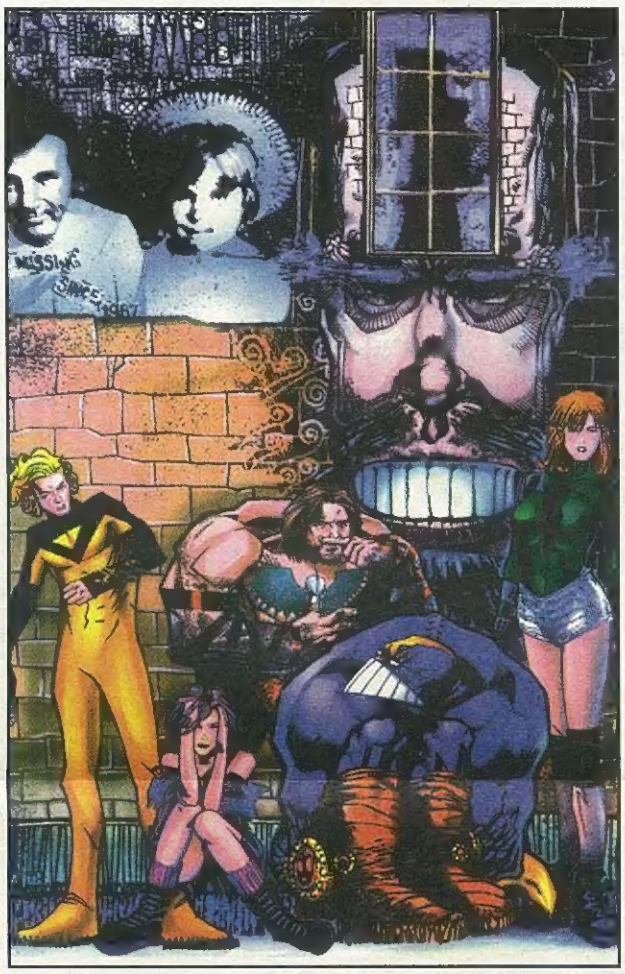
Maxx-imum Effort Leads to Gen-uine Crossover

The folks at Wildstorm Studios really like *Sam Kieth*'s ***Maxx***. And Sam Kieth really likes Wildstorm Studios' ***Gen 13.*** So, other than starting a mutual admiration society, what can they do about this rampant admiration? A crossover, that's what!

Gen13•Maxx, a oneshot written by ***Maxx*** scribe *William Messner-Loebs* and illustrated by *Tomm Coker* and *Troy Hubbs*, deals with the mystery of missing children—and it becomes a Gen13 case when Gen-Active becomes one of the missing. The evidence indicates that the modern-day pied piper Mr. Gone is behind the abductions, which is why the Maxx gets involved. And with these offbeat heroes joining forces, you can rest assured that the action will take a few bizarre twists.



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Gen13•Maxx #1, a $3.50 comic, is scheduled for December release.

Vanity Fair

Fans of Archie's Superteens have already been introduced to the superheroic versions of Betty, Archie, and Jughead, but what about Veronica? Well, don't fret: this dark-haired beauty is about to set the superhero world on fire as Miss Vanity. In ***Archie's Superteens #4,*** *Evan Skolnick* and *John Hebert* introduce the superheroine in a story that pits her against the Rearranger, a villain who can transmute the elements—and it looks like he may be able to transmute Mr. Lodge from rich man to pauper if Miss Vanity can't shut him down first! ***Archie's Superteens #4***, a 48-page comic that mixes new material and 1960's Superteen reprints, is priced at $2.00; look for it on December 21st.

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CSNsider

Teknophage, the Tekno Comix spinoff from ***Mr. Hero the Newmatic Man,*** comes to the end of its run in early '96... *Rob Liefeld,* the acclaimed illustrator who is also the co-creator of Cable, returns to his ***X-Force*** roots to supply the double gatefold cover for ***X-Force #50***. "*Bob Harras* and I spoke at the San Diego Comicon about the possibility of doing a cover for the fiftieth issue and I jumped at the chance," Liefeld said. "It's beena long time since I've drawn Cable and Co., and it was a pleasure to work with Bob once again"... Look for big changes in the ***Justice League*** in '96, as DC refocuses the team in a single title... *Tom Canty* is the latest artist to earn his own trading card series from FPG; look for the 90-card series, featuring (among other things) Canty's covers for *Michael Moorcock*'s Eternal Champion series, in January... FPG highlights the work of a variety of their top illustrators, including *Jeff Jones, Chris Achilleos, Brom, Ken Kelly, Rowena*, and others, in their first ***Metallic Masters of Fantasy Trading Card Series***, also slated for January release... Elfquest Surprise: *Wendy Pini* is taking over the pencilling honors on ***Elfquest: Shards,*** beginning with the fourteenth issue and continuing through to the title's end with ***Shards #16***... Classics Illustrated Entertainment has announced plans to release various ***Classics Illustrated*** adaptations on CD-ROM in '96... The latest Marvel/Malibu crossover co-stars UltraForce, Spider-Man, and the Green Goblin; look for the two-book crossover from Malibu in January... ***Tarzan Versus Predator At the Earth's Core*** by Walter Simonson and Lee Weeks, originally scheduled for mid-95 release from Dark Horse, has been pushed back until January '96... *Walt Simonson* reports that the final issue of ***Star Slammers*** will eventually see print once he finds a new home for the series... *Al Columbia*'s ***Biologic Show*** series refuses to stay dead; in reaction to the positive critical response he got for his Biologic Show story in ***Zero Zero,*** Columbia has prepared ***Biologic Show #2,*** an all-new issue, slated for January '96 release... Dark Horse Comics has joined the Don't! Buy! Thai! boycott program detailed in the back of *Andrew Vachss*' ***Batman: The Ultimate Evil;*** the program hopes to put economic pressure on Thailand to bring an end to the child-sex market that the government of that country condones... ***Madman*** is currently in motion-picture development at Universal Studios; creator *Michael Allred* has written the first-draft script for the film... Marvel is preparing a special comic book that will be available only in conjunction with a comic-shop-release version of the upcoming ***Saturday Morning*** compact disc from MCA; the disc features twenty cartoon show theme songs redone by such popular artists as *the Ramones* and *Matthew Sweet,* and the comic book will feature the work of ten different artists... *Bob Harras* was named Marvel Comics' editor-in-chief on October 20th; the position had been eliminated since the departure of *Tom DeFalco* in favor of the appointment of five executive editors, each of whom oversaw a portion of the Marvel line. No one is certain what other changes might follow the reinstatement of the editor-in-chief position. Harras has, for the past few years, overseen the Marvel mutant books, Marvel's most successful franchise... *Stuart Moore* has reported that DC will launch a new science fiction imprint, Matrix, in mid-'96; creators involved in the line include *Howard Chaykin, Tim Truman,* and *Eduardo Barretto*... Marlowe *&* Company, the publisher of the recently released ***Sam & Max*** collection, has announced two new anthologies scheduled for spring '96 release***: Portia Prinz of the Glamazons*** by *Richard Howell* and ***Mr. Monster*** (a multi-volume collection) by *Michael T. Gilbert* and friends... Look for a ***Spawn/WildCATs*** crossover in early '96... *Adam Hughes* and *Mark Farmer* arreworking on a special ***Gen 13*** project for February '96 release...

Taking Aim on Gun Dealers

The DC Universe has to deal with the escalating problem of guns in the hands of teenagers in a two-part story that brings the new Green Arrow and Robin together for the first time. The reason for the meeting: a weapons dealer is bringing an assortment of armament into Gotham City—and while some of it is very high-tech, intended for the elite of Gotham's criminals, other weapons are your everyday (but very deadly) handguns, and they're falling into the hands of students in Tim Drake's high school.

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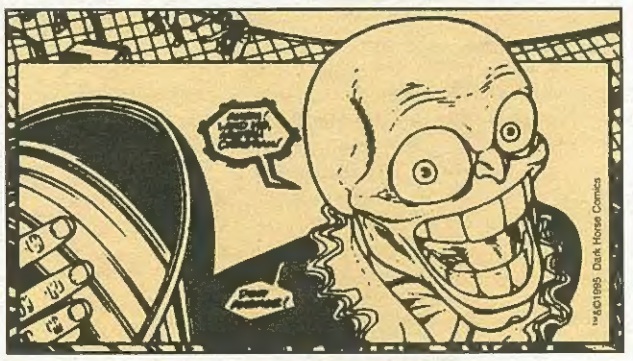
In ***Green Arrow #105***, a $2.25 comic by *Dixon, Damaggio,* and *Campanella*, Green Arrow and Robin join forces to stop the weapons merchant from dealing his wares—but soon they find themselves facing the business end of a plasma-caster. Meanwhile, in ***Robin #25***, a $1.95 comic by *Dixon, Wieringo,* and *Woch*, the focus is on Tim's school as Green Arrow and Robin have to deal with the death of a member of Robin's supporting cast. Both books are scheduled for December 7th release.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Mask-ed Heroes

So far, the Mask's adventures have taken place in their own corner of the Dark Horse Universe—but that's about to change. Beginning in December, the Mask is crossing paths with a variety of Dark Horse heroes in the appropriately-entitled ***The Mask: World Tour***, a four-issue limited series written by *Robert Loren Fleming* and *illustrated by Gary Erskine.* In the first issue, Hero Zero and King Tiger confront the green-headed guy—and will they ever be the same again?! "This special event doesn't require the purchase of multiple titles," Dark Horse says, "nor is it a symptom of incipient crossoveritis at Dark Horse." It is, however, a sign of impending fun—and it all begins on December 14th, with the release of ***The Mask: World Tour #1***, a $2.50 comic.

From Dead To Verse

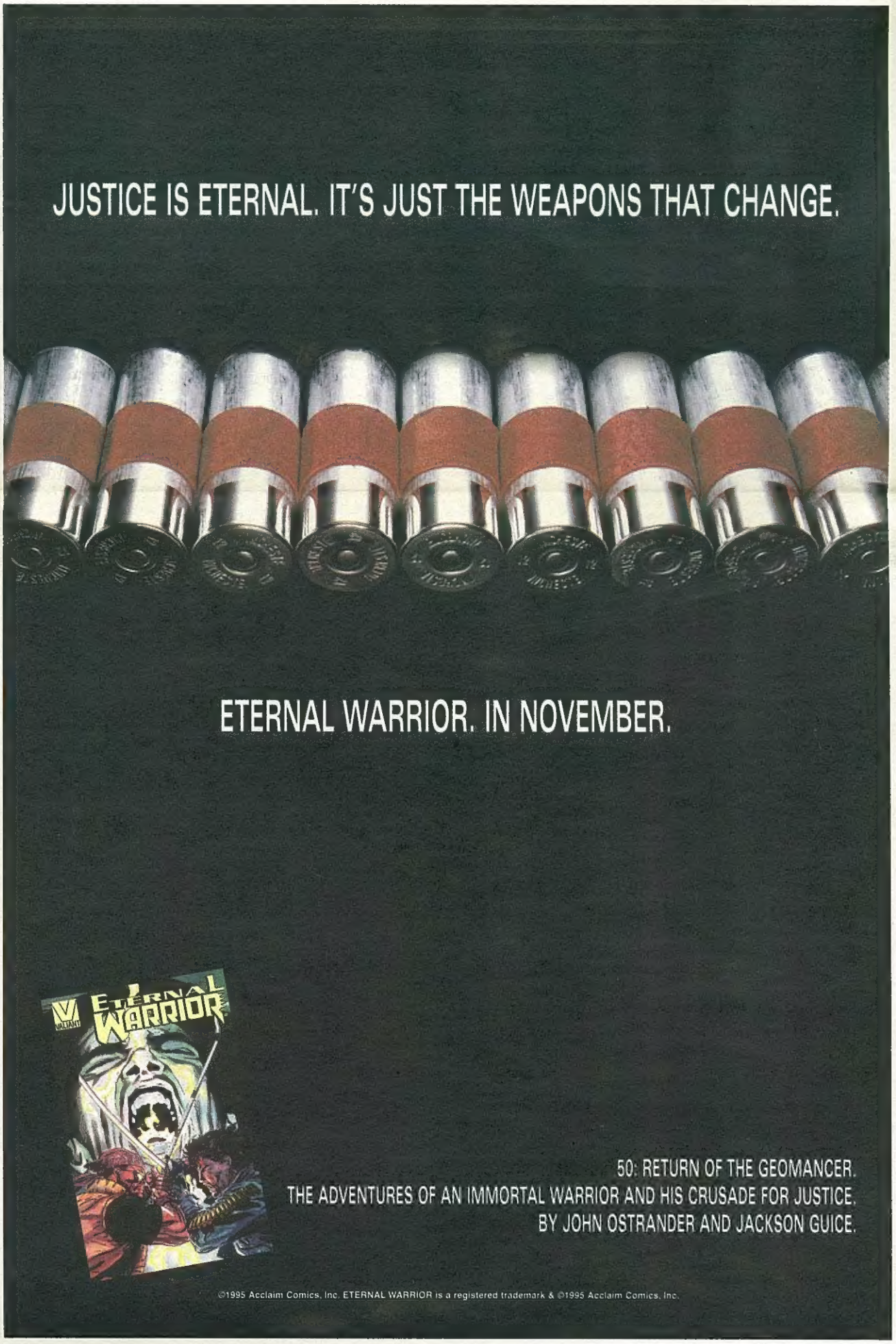
Victorian literature was filled with oblique references to "a fate worse than death," but it's doubtful that many of those authors envisioned the sort of fate that sensual dancer Angelika faces in ***The Vampire Verses,*** a new series from CFD Productions. Angelika was the victim of an attack that, rather than killing her, has transformed her into one of the undead, a creature of the night... in short, a vampire. As she struggles to learn the vampiric life, she also becomes aware of a vampiric prophecy contained within The Vampiric Verses—a prophecy that seems to indicate that she is destined to play an important role in the vampires' future. ***Vampire Verses #1***, recently released by CFD, introduced fans to the bloodthirsty heroine; the second issue, slated for early January '96 release, introduces the two vampiric cults who are prepared to go to war over Angelika. ***Vampire Verses*** is written by *Frank Forte* and *Mike Bliss* with art by *Bob Murdock;* backup material includes vampire poetry by *Hart Fisher* and "Varstow" by *Joe Monks.*

Prehistoric History

Is it true? Are the Flintstones really thirty-five years old! Yes indeed—and Archie Comics has come up with a uniquely appropriate way to celebrate that anniversary. ***Flintstones #7*** features an adaptation of the very first Flintstones episode, "The Flintstone Flyer," illustrated in the style of the original animated episode. *Mike Kirschenbaum* handles the adaptation honors, while *Scott Jeralds* and *Scott Awley* supply the stylized, faithful artwork. ***Flintstones #7***, a $1.50 comic, is scheduled for December 7th release.

X Writer To Become Ex-Writer

Steven Grant, the acclaimed writer of Dark Horse's ***X,*** has announced that he plans to leave the series next spring with the release of ***X #35***—but he's not going to leave fans hanging. Instead, he's wrapping up his run on the series with a stunning storyline that reveals X's origin at last. "It's been a very satisfying book to write, and Dark Horse has given me considerable leeway in the stories, but *Mike Richardson* has asked me to write a screenplay for a possible ***X*** movie, which is awfully time consuming, and I'm starting to feel a little burned out on the character. So this is a little vacation; we may or may not reunite at a later date." Grant will reveal the origin of the character in a two-part storyline that also wraps up the subplots that have been a vital part of the intricately-crafted series. ***X***, a $2.50 comic, is published monthly by Dark Horse.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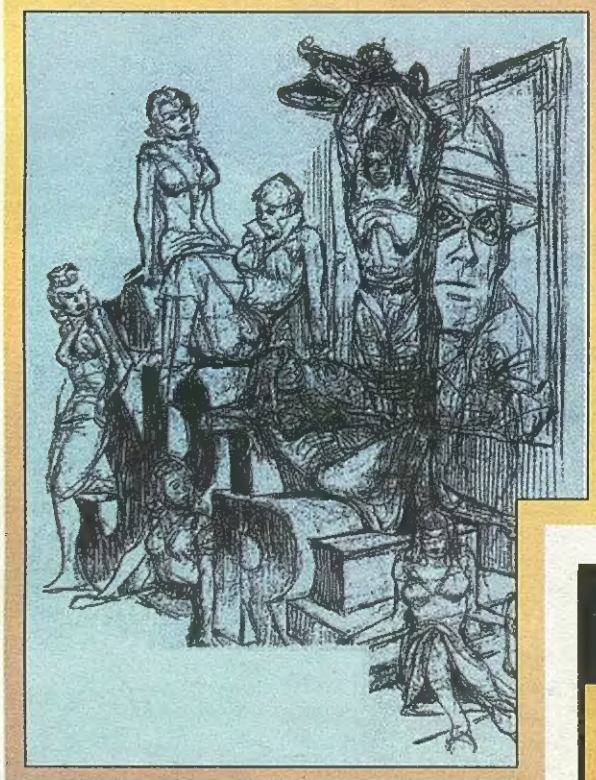


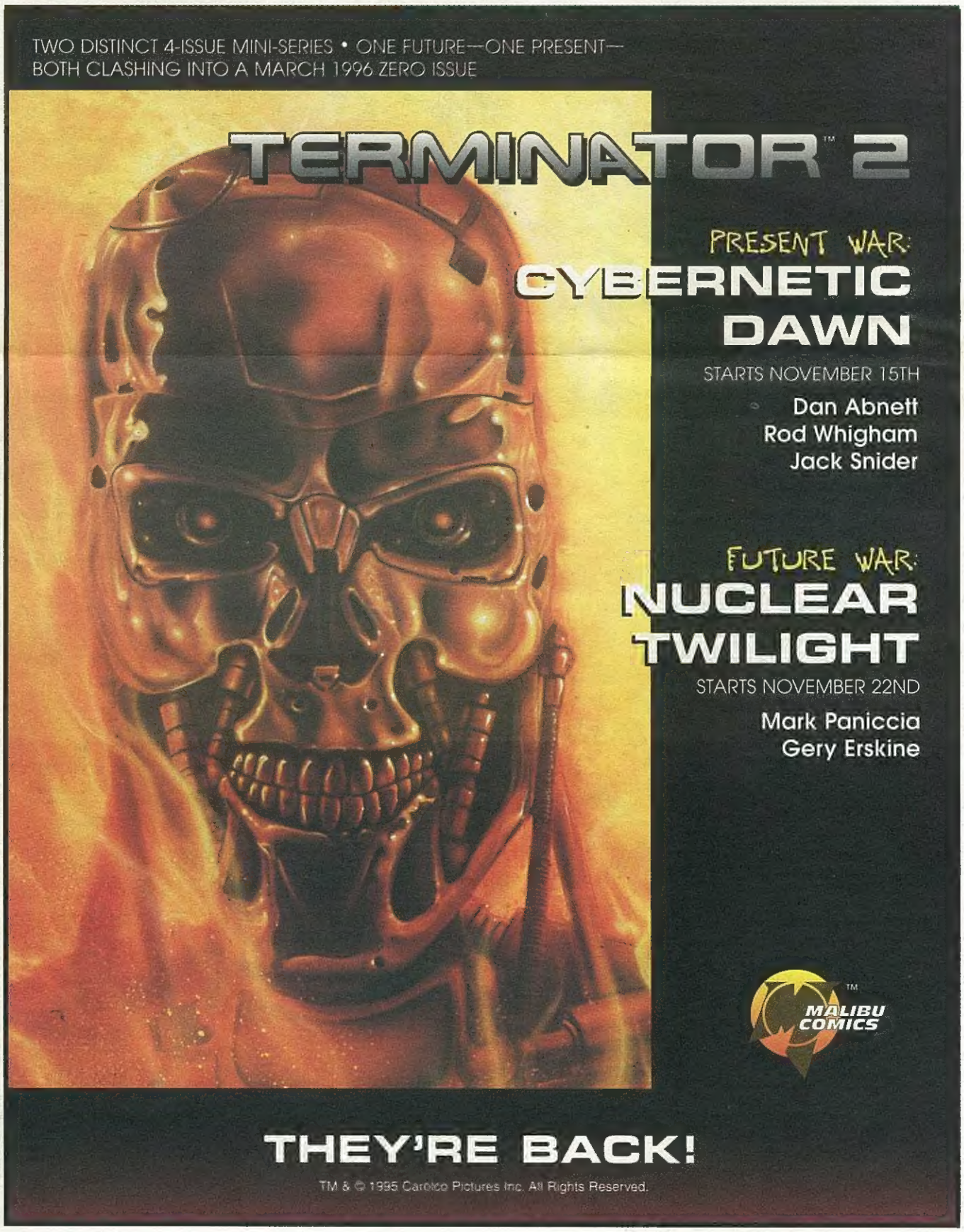
Will Eisner is praised by many as the most talented living master of the comic book art form; however, most fans have only had the opportunity to observe his finished work. This December, however, Kitchen Sink is going to offer fans a chance to stand over Eisner's shoulder, figuratively, and watch a master at work. ***The Will Eisner Sketchbook***, a 128-page trade paperback, features a selection of concept sketches, character studies, cityscaps, layout designs, and more. Check this book out to discover why Eisner is admired by every artist in the field today. ***The Will Eisner Sketchbook***, a $17.95 trade paperback, is scheduled for December release; a limited edition hardcover will follow in February.

The Knight Gallery

When the case is too baffling for the local police, you call in state authorities. When they can't solve the mystery, they call on the FBI. And when even the FBI is stumped, who do you turn to? Knight Hawke Investigations, that's who! ***Knight Hawke Investigations,*** a new title from Entity Comics, is described by publisher *Don Chin* as "a fast-paced action-adventure sure to appeal to fans of Fox TV's ***The X-Files.***" In the first issue, operatives Angel Knight and Jonathan Hawke are brought to the scene of a science fiction convention to solve the mystery of 250 convention-goers who have disappeared without a trace; fandom may be a way of life and all that, but it's rare for fans to entirely abandon this world!... ***Knight Hawke Investigations,*** written by *Kevin Boink!* and illustrated by *Kevin MacKenzie*, is scheduled for early December release; each issue is priced at $2.50. A deluxe $6.95 edition, polybagged with an IBM PC 3.5" floppy featuring the shareware game ***Monster Bash!***, will ship at the same time.

The Spider Meets The Exterminator?

The Punisher's war on crime has taken him in some pretty strange directions of late... but the path turns truly bizarre in ***Spider-Man/Punisher***, a new two-issue limited series that pits the Punisher against the hero whose flagship title first introduced Frank Castle to comic book fans the better part of a quarter-century ago. The Punisher is eager to earn the trust of the mob family he has joined—and they've come up with a test by which he can prove his loyalty: kill Spider-Man. But their battle may have to wait, because Tombstone has a plan to kill the mayor, and only the Punisher and Spidey can thwart his scheme. *Tom Lyle,* who's worked on both Spider-Man and the revamped Punisher, is the writer for this two-parter; the first issue is illustrated by *Shawn McManus* , while *Joe Bennett* and *Mike Witherby* supply the visuals for the finale. ***Spider-Man/Punisher #1***, a $2.95 comic, is scheduled for December 14th release; the second half of the tale follows on December 21st.



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Some Guys (and a Gal) Named Joe

The first GI Joe was a World War II soldier; then came a military adventurer, a veritable legion of soldier-specialists, high-tech hardware handling heroes, and retro WWII troops. And now, proving that they're never content with the status quo, Hasbro (the manufacturers of the GI Joe line of action figures) is looking to the future—fifteen years in the future, as a matter of fact—for their next group of Joes. And they're looking to Dark Horse Comics to bring those Joes to the comic book audience in a new series.

GI Joe, a new four-issue limited series written by Mike W. Barr and illustrated by Tatsuya Ishida, and Scott Reed, introduces readers to the world of 2010—and to the GI Joe operatives who are a part of that world.

Forget what you know about old Joes, old enemies, and old situations; this is a whole new world with entirely different problems. The chief enemy of the Joes is SKAR (Soldiers of Kaos, Anarchy, and Ruin), a deadly terrorist organization bent on disrupting life in the world of 2010 and eventually gaining control of the world. Their terroristic actions have created turmoil around the world, and it's up to the paramilitary GI Joe organization to stop the situation from deteriorating even further.

"The forces of order and peace have to respond quickly," editor Robert Conte said, "by assembling a crack team of highly trained soldiers and specialists. Each member of the team has extraordinary skills and physical abilities, and only the best are accepted. Their code name is ***GI Joe.***" Their action takes them into exotic locales, where their high-tech adventures are sometimes played out against a backdrop of middle European castles.

"None of the old continuity has survived," writer Mike Barr said. "We're starting over with an entirely clean slate." Some of the new Joes include Mayday, a test pilot and paratrooper who's the only female member of the team; Black Dragon, a martial arts master who refuses to become a stereotype; Metal-head, the anti-establishment rock-and-roller; Freight, a massive soldier whose size makes it difficult for him to fit in most of the equipment the Joe's use; and Lt Stone, the commander who pulls the team together.

These soldiers of the future are equipped with the best weaponry of their age; this means that writer Mike Barr had to spend some time doing research—but as he points out, while you can do some research on cutting-edge weapons of today, many of the weapons of tomorrow have to be based on reasonable speculation about the direction of high-tech weaponry. It may not be totally accurate, but it certainly makes for some impressive heavy-ordnance action.

The all-new ***GI Joe*** series of comics and action figures gets a heavy push beginning this fall, with the debut of a ***GI Joe*** animated series from Sunbow Production. This will be followed by Dark Horse's ***GI Joe*** miniseries beginning in December; then, in February, the full Hasbro line of toys ships, followed shortly thereafter by the debut of Dark Horse's ongoing ***GI Joe*** series. And both the animated series and the ads for the action figures will mention the comic book series—and fans with long memories will recall what happened back in the early 80's when another ***GI Joe*** animated series promoted the ***GI Joe*** comic book line from then-licenseholder Marvel Comics...

Each issue of the miniseries will feature a sixteen page lead story and an eight-page backup; the backup feature will present a history of the GI Joe team beginning in 1975 and leading up to the year 2010. Mike Barr is scripting this history based on a concept by Mike Richardson, publisher of Dark Horse.

A new time, a new world, new Joes—and what better way to call attention to this exciting new title than to call on the talents of a cover artist offering his interpretation of ***GI Joe*** for the first time? And that's just what Dark Horse has done: they've enlisted Frank Miller to supply the eye-catching graphics for the premiere issue's front cover.

GI Joe #1, a 1.95 comic, is scheduled for December 21st release.

by Alex Kirkland

Coming in January

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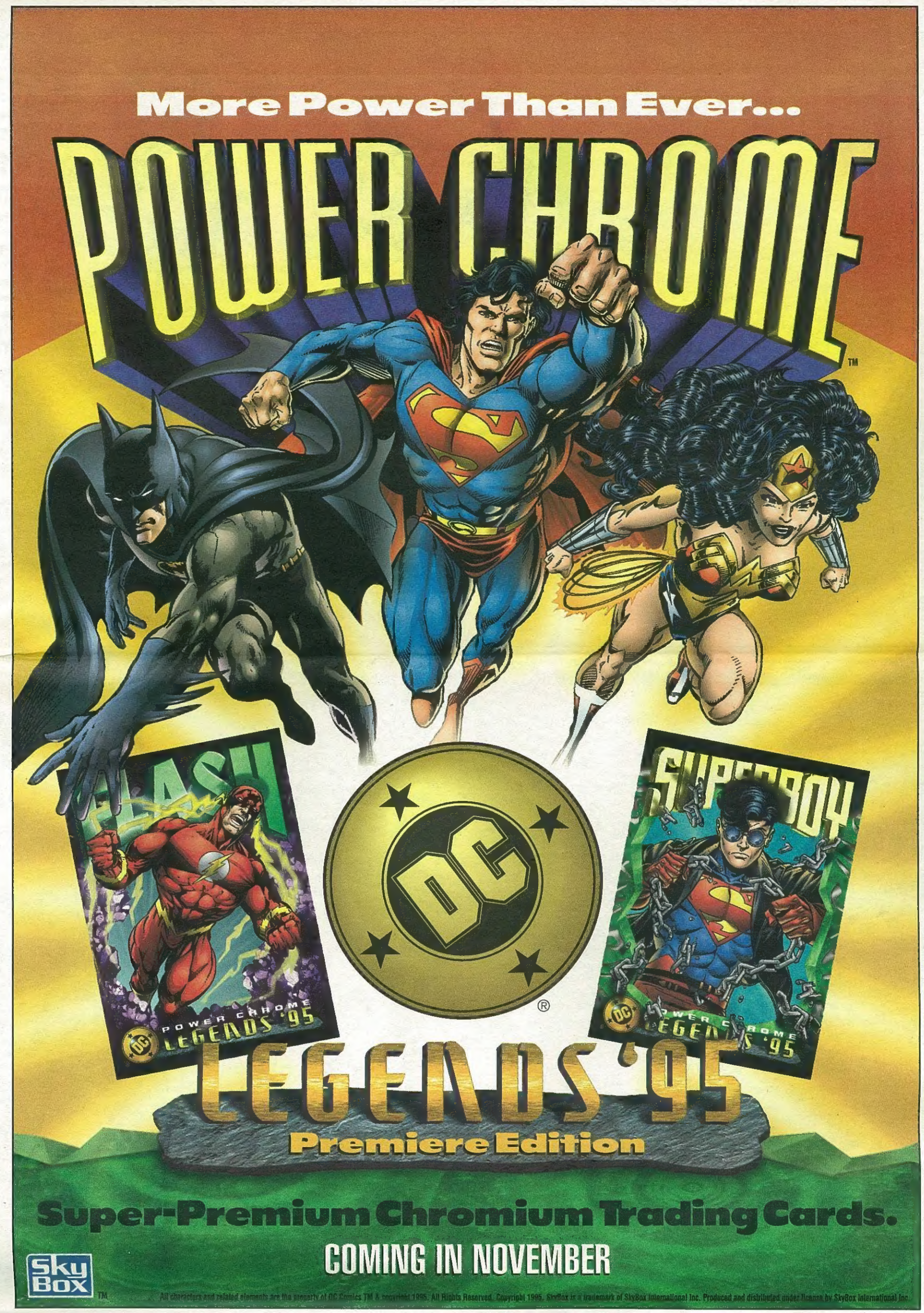

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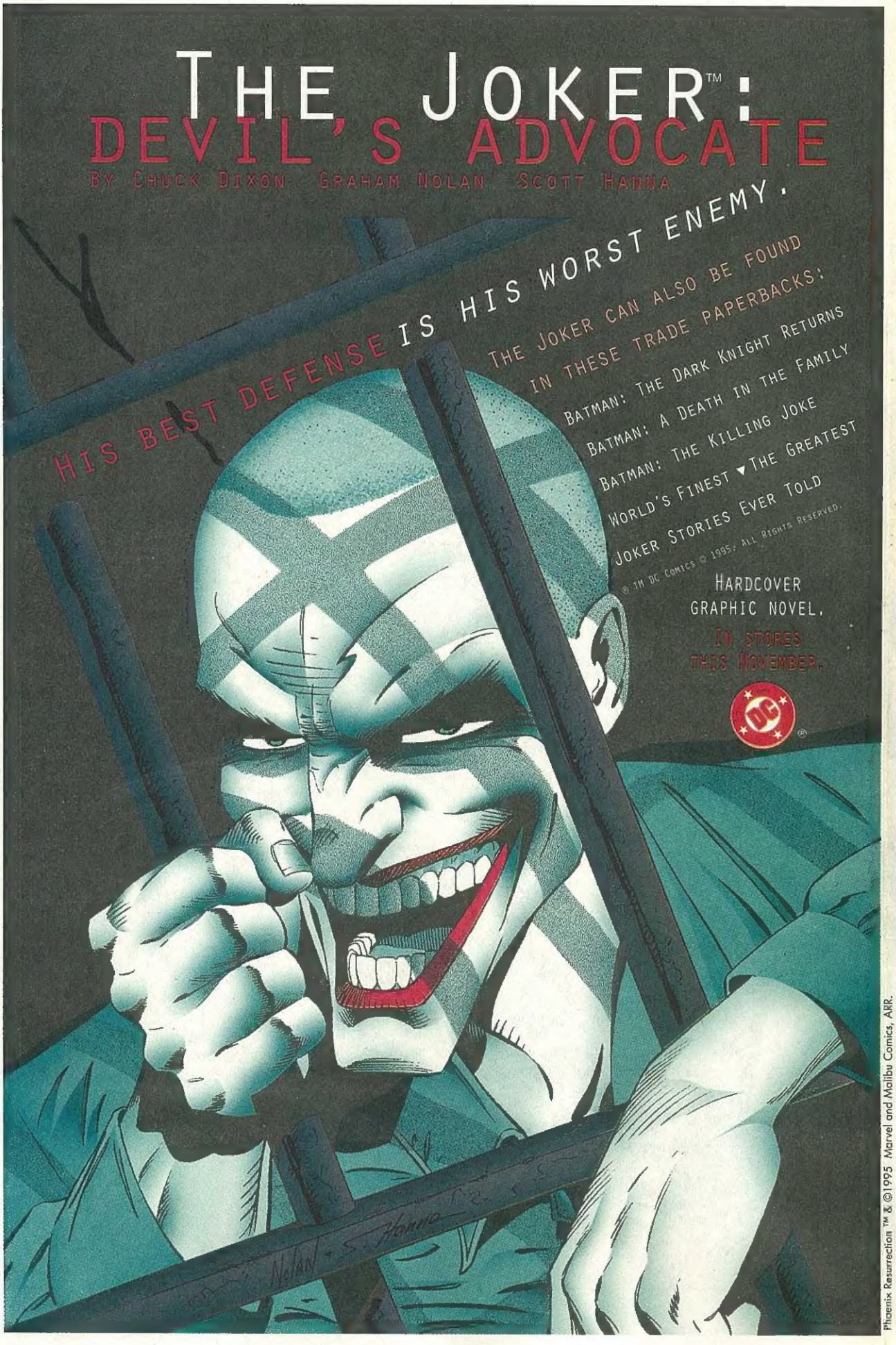
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